

### **REMARKS**

The Applicant respectfully requests further examination and reconsideration in view of the amendments above and the arguments set forth fully below. Claims 1, 4-15, 17-24, 49, 52-63, 65-73, 76-87, and 89-96 were previously pending in this application. Within the Office Action, claims 1, 4-15, 17-24, 49, 52-63, 65-73, 76-87, and 89-96 have been rejected. Accordingly, claims 1, 4-15, 17-24, 49, 52-63, 65-73, 76-87, and 89-96 are currently pending.

#### **Double Patenting**

Within the Office Action, claims 1, 4-15, 17-25, 28-39, 41-49, 52-63, 65-73, 76-87, and 89-96 have been provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-40 of co-pending Application No. 09/801,072. The Applicant is herewith attaching a terminal disclaimer that was previously filed in the Application with the RCE application on December 14, 2004. Accordingly, it is requested that this provisional rejection be withdrawn.

#### **Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103**

Within the Office Action, claims 1, 4-15, 17-24, 49, 52-63, 65-73, 76-87, and 89-96 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,253,188 issued to Witek et al. (hereafter "Witek") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,604,772 to Botto et al. (hereinafter "Botto"). The Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Witek teaches a system and method for providing classified ads over the Internet. Internet users can connect to a newspaper web server and central web application server to search for and obtain classified ads. Ad records are stored in ad database servers 20 for providing classified ad records on request to application servers 16. To search the ad records, the search process is divided into two principle parts. The first part includes a system entry and pre-selection sequence, and the second part includes a record selection sequence. [Witek, col. 12, lines 10-13] More specifically, in the first part the user enters the system and specifies the category of classified ads to be searched. Thereafter, as the user navigates to the respective selected category, the user further specifies a subcategory for the particular category selected. [Witek, col. 12, lines 27-37] The selected category and subcategory pair is identified by a category/subcategory ID 46. The specific parameters are entered as primary selection parameters 60 and as secondary selection parameters 62. The first part of the search process is limited to performing searches based on category, or in other words a hierarchical search. [Witek, col. 13,

lines 30-46] The second part of the search process is limited to performing searches based on entered parameters, in other words keyword search or parametric search. As previously agreed, Witek does not teach a dichotomous key search. Witek does not teach performing a search in which for any given searching step, at any location within the database, three or more different search methodologies are available to be used to perform the search. Specifically, Witek does not teach that three or more of any of a keyword search, hierarchical search, dichotomous key search and parametric search can be used at any location within the database.

Botto teaches a transmission system and modem utilizing coded modulation. Botto appears to be cited because of its teaching of a zone searching module which determines a searched zone by dichotomy. There is no motivation to warrant the combination of Witek and Botto. There is no hint, teaching or suggestion in either of Witek or Botto to warrant their combination.

Even if considered proper, the combination of Witek and Botto does not teach performing a search in which for any given searching step, at any location within the database, three or more different search methodologies are available to be used to perform the search. Neither, Witek, Botto nor their combination teach that each utilization of the search modules includes the availability of three or more of the keyword search, the hierarchical search, the dichotomous key search and the parametric search.

The independent claim 1 is directed to a method of performing a research task within a searchable database. The method of claim 1 comprises the steps of utilizing a search module to correlate a search criteria to the searchable database for generating one or more matching items, wherein each matching item corresponds to a segment of the searchable database, further wherein the search module includes a keyword search, a hierarchical search, and a dichotomous key search, utilizing the search module to correlate a subsequent search criteria to one of the matching items for generating one or more subsequent matching items, wherein each subsequent matching item is a sub-segment of the matching item used to generate the subsequent matching item, and further wherein the subsequent search criteria is a selective one of the search criteria and a different search criteria, and repeating the step of utilizing the search module to correlate a subsequent search criteria until the research task is completed *such that each utilization of the search module includes the availability of the keyword search, the hierarchical search, and the dichotomous key search.* As described above, the combination of Witek and Botto is not proper. As further discussed above, even if considered proper, neither Witek, Botto nor their combination teach that each utilization of the search module includes the availability of the

keyword search, the hierarchical search and the dichotomous key search. For at least these reasons the independent claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Witek, Botto and their combination.

Claims 4-14 depend on the independent claim 1. As described above, the independent claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Witek, Botto and their combination. Accordingly, claims 4-14 are all also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

The independent claim 15 is directed to research system for performing a research task within a searchable database. The research system of claim 15 comprises a research server configured to utilize a search module, to correlate a search criteria to the searchable database coupled to the research server for generating one or more matching items, wherein each matching item corresponds to a segment of the searchable database, further wherein the search module includes a keyword search, a hierarchical search, and a dichotomous key search, to utilize the search module to correlate a subsequent search criteria to one of the matching items for generating one or more subsequent matching items, wherein each subsequent matching item is a sub-segment of the matching item used to generate the subsequent matching item, further wherein the subsequent search criteria is a selective one of the search criteria and a different search criteria, and to repeat the utilization of the search module to correlate a subsequent search criteria to one of the matching items for generating one or more subsequent matching items, wherein each subsequent matching item is a sub-segment of the matching item used to generate the subsequent matching item, further wherein the subsequent search criteria is a selective one of the search criteria and a different search criteria, until the research task is completed, and further wherein *each utilization of the search module includes the availability of the keyword search, the hierarchical search, and the dichotomous key search*. As described above, the combination of Witek and Botto is not proper. As further discussed above, even if considered proper, neither Witek, Botto nor their combination teach that each utilization of the search module includes the availability of the keyword search, the hierarchical search and the dichotomous key search. For at least these reasons, the independent claim 15 is allowable over the teachings of Witek, Botto and their combination.

Claims 17-24 depend on the independent claim 15. As described above, the independent claim 15 is allowable over the teachings of Witek, Botto and their combination. Accordingly, claims 17-24 are all also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

The independent claim 49 is directed to method of performing a research task within a searchable database. The method of claim 49 comprises the steps of utilizing a search module to correlate a search criteria to the searchable database for generating one or more matching items, wherein each matching item corresponds to a segment of the searchable database, further wherein the search module includes a keyword search, a dichotomous key search, and a parametric search, utilizing the search module to correlate a subsequent search criteria to one of the matching items for generating one or more subsequent matching items, wherein each subsequent matching item is a sub-segment of the matching item used to generate the subsequent matching item, and further wherein the subsequent search criteria is a selective one of the search criteria and a different search criteria, and repeating the step of utilizing the search module to correlate a subsequent search criteria until the research task is completed *such that each utilization of the search module includes the availability of the keyword search, the dichotomous key search, and the parametric search.* As described above, the combination of Witek and Botto is not proper. As further discussed above, even if considered proper, neither Witek, Botto nor their combination teach that each utilization of the search module includes the availability of the keyword search, the dichotomous key search, and the parametric search. For at least these reasons, the independent claim 49 is allowable over the teachings of Witek, Botto and their combination.

Claims 52-62 depend on the independent claim 49. As described above, the independent claim 49 is allowable over the teachings of Witek, Botto and their combination. Accordingly, claims 52-62 are all also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

The independent claim 63 is directed to a research system for performing a research task within a searchable database. The research system of claim 63 comprises a research server configured to utilize a search module to correlate a search criteria to the searchable database coupled to the research server for generating one or more matching items, wherein each matching item corresponds to a segment of the searchable database, further wherein the search module includes a keyword search, a dichotomous key search, and a parametric search, to utilize the search module to correlate a subsequent search criteria to one of the matching items for generating one or more subsequent matching items, wherein each subsequent matching item is a sub-segment of the matching item used to generate the subsequent matching item, further wherein the subsequent search criteria is a selective one of the search criteria and a different search criteria, and to repeat the utilization of the search module to correlate a subsequent search criteria to one of the matching items for generating one or more subsequent matching items,

wherein each subsequent matching item is a sub-segment of the matching item used to generate the subsequent matching item, and further wherein the subsequent search criteria is a selective one of the search criteria and a different search criteria, until the research task is completed, and further wherein *each utilization of the search module includes the availability of the keyword search, the dichotomous key search, and the parametric search*. As described above, the combination of Witek and Botto is not proper. As further discussed above, even if considered proper, neither Witek, Botto nor their combination teach that each utilization of the search module includes the availability of the keyword search, the dichotomous key search, and the parametric search. For at least these reasons, the independent claim 63 is allowable over the teachings of Witek, Botto and their combination.

Claims 65-72 depend on the independent claim 63. As described above, the independent claim 63 is allowable over the teachings of Witek, Botto and their combination. Accordingly, claims 65-72 are all also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

The independent claim 73 is directed to a method of performing a research task within a searchable database. The method of claim 73 comprises the steps of utilizing a search module to correlate a search criteria to the searchable database for generating one or more matching items, wherein each matching item corresponds to a segment of the searchable database, further wherein the search module includes a hierarchical search, a dichotomous key search, and a parametric search, utilizing the search module to correlate a subsequent search criteria to one of the matching items for generating one or more subsequent matching items, wherein each subsequent matching item is a sub-segment of the matching item used to generate the subsequent matching item, and further wherein the subsequent search criteria is a selective one of the search criteria and a different search criteria, and repeating the step of utilizing the search module to correlate a subsequent search criteria until the research task is completed *such that each utilization of the search module includes the availability of the hierarchical search, the dichotomous key search, and the parametric search*. As described above, the combination of Witek and Botto is not proper. As further discussed above, even if considered proper, neither Witek, Botto nor their combination teach that each utilization of the search module includes the availability of the hierarchical search, the dichotomous key search, and the parametric search. For at least these reasons the independent claim 73 is allowable over the teachings of Witek, Botto and their combination.

Claims 76-86 depend on the independent claim 73. As described above, the independent claim 73 is allowable over the teachings of Witek, Botto and their combination. Accordingly, claims 76-86 are all also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

The independent claim 87 is directed to a research system for performing a research task within a searchable database. The research system of claim 87 comprises a research server configured to utilize a search module to correlate a search criteria to the searchable database coupled to the research server for generating one or more matching items, wherein each matching item corresponds to a segment of the searchable database, further wherein the search module includes a hierarchical search, a dichotomous key search, and a parametric search, to utilize the search module to correlate a subsequent search criteria to one of the matching items for generating one or more subsequent matching items, wherein each subsequent matching item is a sub-segment of the matching item used to generate the subsequent matching item, further wherein the subsequent search criteria is a selective one of the search criteria and a different search criteria, and to repeat the utilization of the search module to correlate a subsequent search criteria to one of the matching items for generating one or more subsequent matching items, wherein each subsequent matching item is a sub-segment of the matching item used to generate the subsequent matching item, and further wherein the subsequent search criteria is a selective one of the search criteria and a different search criteria, until the research task is completed, and further wherein *each utilization of the search module includes the availability of the hierarchical search, the dichotomous key search, and the parametric search*. As described above, the combination of Witek and Botto is not proper. As further discussed above, even if considered proper, neither Witek, Botto nor their combination teach that each utilization of the search module includes the availability of the hierarchical search, the dichotomous key search, and the parametric search. For at least these reasons the independent claim 87 is allowable over the teachings of Witek, Botto and their combination.

Claims 89-96 depend on the independent claim 87. As described above, the independent claim 87 is allowable over the teachings of Witek, Botto and their combination. Accordingly, claims 89-96 are all also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

For the reasons given above, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are now in a condition for allowance, and allowance at an early date would be appreciated. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, she is encouraged to call the undersigned attorney at (408) 530-9700.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Date: March 24, 2005

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